

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-11 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Claim 7 is canceled.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edatsune (U.S. Patent 5,802,488) in view of Dario et al. (Article entitled “Instinctive Behaviors and Personalities in Societies of Cellular Robots”) in further view of Henton (U.S. Patent 5,860,064).

The present invention claims “processing a voice input including extracting control pitch information or phonemics information.” (Claims 1, 10, and 11) The Examiner argues “Henton discloses the processing including extracting control pitch information ... to provide vocal emotion sound qualities to synthetic speech.” (Office Action pages 5-6) However, Henton does not disclose “extracting” pitch information from an input voice, but rather uses a pitch parameter to add vocal emotion to a synthesized voice. In other words, Henton disclose the use of pitch information for voice synthesis, rather than the extraction of pitch information during voice

processing as required in the present invention.

Moreover, in the present invention, “the value corresponding to each state within the emotion model and within the instinct model are linked in a mutually stimulating manner.” (Claims 1, 10, and 11) The Examiner contends Henton meets this limitation by Tables 1 and 2 with Figure 2. (Office Action page 6) However, Applicants are unable to discern how Tables 1 and 2 in combination with Figure 2 can be interpreted as disclosing emotion and instinct models being “linked in a mutually stimulating manner.” In fact, Applicants believe Henton fails to disclose any linking of models, much less in “a mutually stimulating manner” as required by the present claims.

Additionally, in the present invention, “said robot takes actions corresponding to a reliability of the voice recognition results output from said voice recognizing means.” (Claims 1, 10, and 11) The Examiner contends Edatsune meets this reliability limitation at Column 1, lines 8-10. (Office Action pages 7-8 in reference to Claim 7) However at the cited location, Edatsune simply states the invention “produces sounds or actions in response to the recognition result” and hence does not disclose “a reliability” value as required in the present claims.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Edatsune, Dario, and Henton fail to render obvious the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

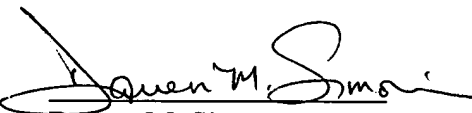
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren M. Simon", written over a horizontal line.

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